

**THE**

# **HACKNEY ANARCHIST**



**THE RADICAL VOICE OF HACKNEY**



**NUMBER ONE**

**SPRING 2023**

# UNREASONABLE BUDGET!

## AN ANARCHIST PROPOSAL

Break down the dam of the Bank of England – free money for everyone all the time.

Completely devalue the pound – put King Charles head on it.

Act as if you are is already free – shoplift.

Save the libraries – Turn stokey police station into a library.

If you don't like where you live – move to empty houses in Mayfair

Support the troops – shit In the house guards courtyard.

Sick of unions paralysing public transport – unionise the unions.

Hate the winter of discontent – wait until spring, complain then.

Unhappy with the politicians in your life – join the angry brigade.

**LONDON  
ANARCHISTS:  
FREE ENERGY,  
FREE FOOD,  
FREE  
TRANSPORT,  
FREE  
HOUSING ,  
VERY  
EXPENSIVE  
PINTS**



# HACKNEY ANARCHISTS

FUNDRAISER

for **HACKNEY COP WATCH**

THE ROYAL SOV. E5 8RL

FRIDAY 31.03.23

8PM - 12AM

**EFA SUPERTRAMP**  
**EL RECORTE INGLÉS**  
**+ BANDS**  
**GUTTER GEAR ZINES**

**AFTER WINTER MUST COME SPRING**

**JOIN THE FUNDRAISER!**



[hackneycopwatch@disroot.org](mailto:hackneycopwatch@disroot.org)

[@hackneycopwatch](https://twitter.com/hackneycopwatch)

[hackneyanarchists@riseup.net](mailto:hackneyanarchists@riseup.net)

[@hackneyanarchists](https://twitter.com/hackneyanarchists)

# THE RUBBLE

Hackney and East London have seen rental increases year on year in, with house prices increasing by a 1000 percent in 30 years and rent increasing manifold in this time.

What have we got for it, and where does it leave Anarchists in London today?



As we can see from the Stoke Newington High street, Marylebone Properties near-tragedy, there is no escape, no safe place from rapacious property speculation and no safeguards for renters.

People living in the apartments on Stoke Newington high street (managed by Marylebone properties) that fell on 27th January were paying over 50% of their incomes for the privilege of living in decrepit and unsafe housing.

The private sector owns the properties, private construction fucks up their maintenance and the turgid tugboat of the state is unable and unwilling to protect the people.

# WE INHERIT

What was the point for the person trapped renting under all of these bureaucrats and con artists? What were they getting for this money? If it's going to be shit and unsafe then you may as well squat it.

**WHAT WAS THE BENEFIT OF SOME UNCARING COMPANY OWNING AND EXTRACTING PROFIT FROM THEIR HOMES?**

**WHAT WAS THE BENEFIT FROM THEIR MANAGEMENT: WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THE PEOPLE THERE NEEDED SUPPORT?**

**KICK THEM OUT AND RESORT TO THE LOCAL COUNCIL FOR EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION FOR AN ACT OF GOD?**

We can draw limited comparisons with our comrades and friends in Turkey: government and ruthless property and construction developers are making money out of blood spilled in dangerous and immiserating housing. We stand in solidarity with our Turkish, Kurdish and Syrian comrades, many of whose family live in the east London diaspora and are our neighbours and friends. We draw attention to the global crimes mentioned above, that echo worldwide and are echoed in each of our communities, areas and homes.

**THIS INTREPID REPORTER WENT TO A HOUSE PARTY IN A NEW BUILD IN DALSTON THIS MONTH FOR RESEARCH ON THIS PIECE: THE BALCONY ALREADY WOBBLER! WHO WILL BE THE NEXT TO FALL?**

We see the problems around us everywhere, we are told there is no alternative. But we know, especially in Hackney, that our borough has a long history and tradition of the alternative: squatting.

Squatting in residential buildings was made illegal in 2012 and life has never been so good for property developers and speculators or so bad for a thriving anarchist scene and community since.

Thousands of people are made homeless as property developers prop up mansions building luxury flats, as people are driven out of their communities or live cowering in fear of their landlords.

All these pillars of the housing model prop each other up leading to disastrous and deadly outcomes for normal people. The alternative unfinancialised model of squatting has been criminalised and attacked. But have they pushed us so far that it's worth it again?

One of the criticisms of squatting as it currently exists is the temporary and fleeting nature of any property you can remain in. This means that all of your energy is poured into housing security and so less can be put into the struggle. The average time in a new squat these days is 2 to 4 months.



But look at it this way: as a renter you also have this complete abject failure of security with no fault evictions at any time leaving you with two months to vacate your home.

Furthermore, a squat can be dangerous and unsafe with no access to hot water and electricity - again, this bears no comparison to the luxury we find ourselves renting in in 2023 London.

Finally, the police will aggressively evict squatters at the first sniff of them - who thinks that the police protect renters against the landlord? We live terrified of spy cops and the panopticon of surveillance. But the police are failing by their own standards, not just ours. The courts are bogged down in thousands of delayed cases. Time to strike out and slip through the cracks.

Squatting, at its best, is free space to create roving communities of anarchists, free to create what they want, and the lives that they want with the people that they want.

Time to tune in, drop out and take advantage of the crumbling state infrastructure left by 13 wasted years of Tory rule. Time to prove another model, and what is possible through living it.

**JOIN THE  
SQUATTERS  
NETWORK,  
JOIN LONDON  
RENTERS  
UNION, JOIN  
ACORN, JOIN  
THE FIGHT  
BACK!**

**REJECT  
THE COLD  
EMBRACE OF  
THE MARKET  
AND REJOIN  
THE BOLT  
CUTTING  
RESISTANCE**

# THE ROYAL'S BLOOD

500 years ago there was a massive peasant's uprising across western Europe.

Over 300,000 peasants mobilised in huge armies and attacked the aristocracy - hundreds of castles and monasteries were burnt down but, sadly, with the use of mercenaries, it was eventually brutally suppressed by the ruling classes.

One of the towns which had supported the uprising was Kitzingen in Germany.

On 9 June 1525 it's ruler, Markgraf Kasimir von Brandenburg-Kulmbach, rode into the town with his gang of mercenary soldiers. They grabbed the first men they could catch - 62 in one source, or maybe 58 as mentioned in another - and shut them up in a cellar.

Kasimir then assembled the people in the market place and, in a sick speech, made mention of the fact that the townsfolk had said that they didn't want to see him as their Markgraf anymore. His man, Augustin, then dragged the men out of the cellar, and one by one,

# STAINED

# TREE

he stabbed their eyes out. A process so violent that 12 of them died immediately. He then forbade any of the other townsfolk to assist the blinded men - with the threat that they would receive the same punishment.

Kasimir returned to his palace and lived happily ever after. His spoiled little daughter, Marie, who was just five years old at the time, also enjoyed a happy life and eventually inherited his wealth.

And why is this relevant? Because Marie was the mother of Louis, the father of Frederick, the father of another Frederick, the father of Sophia, the mother of Georg, who became George I of England, the father of another George, the father of Frederick, the father of yet another George, the father of Edward, the father of Victoria, the mother of another Edward, the father of another George, the father of yet another George who was the father of the late Queen Elizabeth - who left a personal wealth of over £500 million to her son King Charles III.

# ANARCHIST

## **WHAT IS ANARCHISM?**

Anarchism means “without rulers”.

Without rulers because Anarchism knows that humans are born free and have a natural right to live freely and create functioning societies that meet their needs.

Elites justify systems of domination through the threat of violence. Anarchism knows - we know! - that we must create a system that is cooperative and participatory.

Anarchism describes an order created freely by all.

## **WHAT DO WE WANT?**

We want a stateless and classless society.

We want a world without bigotry, private property or any kind of unfair and unjust system of power.

We want a bottom up system of production, distribution, management and consumption of all the necessities and luxuries that satisfy every human life.

We want all the resources of the earth and all the products we make from them to be the common inheritance of all – to be owned by all.

We want humanity to live in abundance and in harmony with nature.

We want people to be as free as possible from work to create as they want, do what they want and ultimately to be as alive, vital and happy as possible.

## **WHAT WOULD SOCIETY LOOK LIKE?**

All decisions that concern work will be made by workers cooperatively and in association with other workplaces to organise production and distribution. It is their labour, their creation, their decision!

There is no centre of control, only the point of contact of all the individual parts; from the outside in, from the bottom up.

Communities will associate with all the other communities within assemblies and confederations to ensure everyone's needs are fulfilled. At



# MINI MANIFESTO

the centre of this logic is care and in reality, it will take forms as varied as we can imagine and, indeed, can't yet imagine.

## **HOW DO WE GET THERE?**

Anarchists reject parliamentarianism, party politics or seizing state power. No matter how left or progressive a party is, it can never realise a free and fair world because government is itself unfreedom.

Revolutionary strategy can only work if we organise ourselves outside the state and capitalism and create alternative forms of (re)production on our own.

We must create the embryos of the new society now.

This means creating community mutual aid groups, labour organising and a strong solidarity between all these groups to build a real mass movement that can halt the wheels of capital and build the structures of the new world.

## **ISN'T THIS ALL UNREALISTIC?**

No!

It's not easy but it is possible... it's necessary! In fact, it's the only choice we have. Capitalism is pushing humanity to total collapse; towards nothing less than the end of organised human life. There is no solution to be found in reform.

But there is a solution in you—in us all!

Anarchism happens in millions of little ways everyday and in massive ways countless times throughout history. There is nothing internal to its the logic that makes it impossible. The only struggle is escaping the current system which will suppress you and, in the last case, murder you for trying. But this should never stop us because together we can win!

So,

Be reasonable...

(Be excited)

Demand the impossible!

MARCH 8TH  
INTERNATIONAL  
WOMENS DAY

٨ آذار  
يوم المرأة العالمي



**WE ARE THE LEAST AFRAID OF RUINS**

**WE CARRY A NEW WORLD IN OUR HEARTS**



**AID IS**

*FROM COLONY.*

*TO COUP.*

*TO CONTRACT*

**IMPERIALISM**

International Aid is supposedly a remedy to the poverty of the global South... Poverty that the West has created over a period of 500 years and continues to manufacture. Under the guise of charity, Aid not only masks exploitation but is actually part of the very mechanism by which the West steals wealth from the rest of the world.

- 281 billion is given in Aid a year, while...

- 7 trillion is taken in the form of debts, lost revenue and unequal exchange.

### **A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF OUR COLONIAL DEBT**

In 1492 Columbus “discovered” America and initiated the so called “first wave” of colonisation, a campaign of extermination and exploitation that continues to this day, albeit in different forms. The story of the genocide of the indigenous population of the Americas and the enslavement of the indigenous population of Africa is well known and often recounted. Suffice to say, they constituted some of the greatest crimes in history. The economic history of this period is, in short, theft. Theft which kicked off the industrial revolution in the UK and Europe.

The process that was required to make this happen at home might be less well known. Capital needed a workforce which was not readily available at the time as most people had



no need for wage-slavery and subsisted happily off the land (...or under the dictates of monarchs and feudal lords). So beginning in the 15th century, the nobles started to steal the land of the peasants. This was a violent process known as the 'Enclosure Movement'. They revoked the 1217 'Charter of the Forest' which guaranteed Rights to basic subsistence.. This resulted in a humanitarian crisis: no houses, no work, no food, no means of a livelihood. People were forced to work for the capitalists in factories and cities and since they had no means of subsistence, they became the first consumer population.

The Enclosure Movement was exported to Ireland, resulting in the famine; it was exported to the Americas where thousands starved; it was then exported to India where the same occurred, starting the second wave of colonisation. As resources were syphoned back to the West, the process of colonial enclosure involved exploitative production of land goods and forcing nations to become consumers of British industrial commodities.



At the end of the 19th century a financial crisis pushed Europe into a depression and its nations competed to find new markets to exploit, starting the land grab in Africa: the third wave. In 1884 the Berlin conference set agreements between the European nations and carved up borders in Africa for European ownership. By the end of the period Europe owned between a quarter and a half of Asia and Africa's domestic capital and more than three quarters of their industrial capital.

During the 19th century the United States started carving up Latin America. Latin American countries had gained independence





from European colonial powers but local elites still controlled the economy, and the United States enforced the Monroe Doctrine in 1823, which resulted in a series of military interventions. The US engaged in a unique form of colonialism that involved indirect control, but was no less violent. This included invasions of Cuba, Mexico, Honduras, Colombia, Nicaragua, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico.

By the end of this period, Western powers were extracting approximately \$22 billion per year which is equivalent to \$161 billion today.

The narrative that the West is

rich and the developing nations are poor is backwards. There are no poor countries, only exploited ones. Moreover, the wealth of the West is, in a very large part, wealth stolen from the rest of the world. Britain and the West developed precisely by de-developing Asia, Africa and the America's.

### **A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF OUR COUP DEBT**

That is a brief summary of geopolitics of the roughly 400 years of colonialism. As decolonisation started in the 20th century, geopolitics came to be defined by a new policy of Coup-d'etat. The "fourth wave".

As the "Third World" started to win independence in the 1950's they moved towards economic nationalism, called "Developmentalism": a process of enacting the same sorts of policies that made the West rich. Although this did not include imperial expansion, mass genocides, enslavement of entire ethnicities and theft of wealth and resources; this process did include economic protectionism, nationalisation of

industries and general effort to redistribute the wealth and prevent so much being extracted by the West.

This, of course, could not be tolerated. The aim was to violently crush any moves towards real independence and install puppet governments effectively controlled by US corporate interests.

Intervention and Exploitation:  
US and UK Government  
International Actions Since 1945.

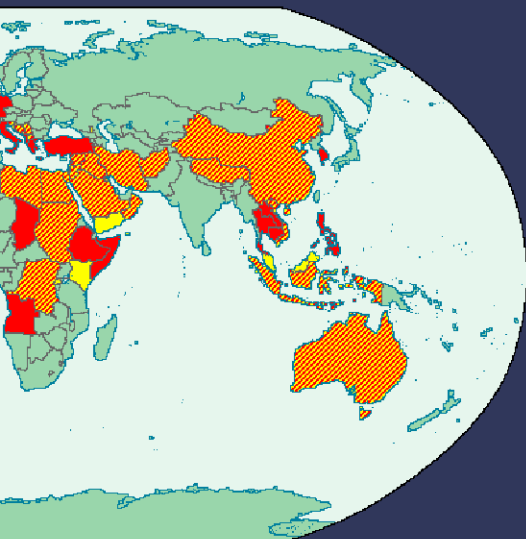
This violence was a direct extension of the principles of the Monroe Doctrine and should be seen as a natural progression of the process of colonialism. In the West the process was called “exporting democracy”. It was not only “democracy” in the political sphere that was exported but also a “free-market” economy in the form of Neoliberalism.

However, there were limits to the strategy of coup-d’etat (apart from moral outrage and strategic difficulties) and it couldn’t entirely stop the Developmentalism of the South. The oil rich nations of the South formed OPEC and the G77,



presenting an opposing bloc of power against the West. The West now turned to forms of economic warfare to divide and conquer the persistently unruly peripheral nations. We could argue that the creation of a global system of economic management was the next natural step in the process of colonialism.

Thus commences the “fifth wave”: the age of the “Contract”, in the form of debts, unequal trade regulations and “Structural Adjustment Programs” created



Western corporate and state power.

Another tactic employed by Kissinger was to divide the global South into Less Developed Nations (LDN) and the More Developed Nations (MDN). Aid was offered to the LDN's in exchange for their backing of the West and their economic programs. We are told that this is to ensure that Aid is given to those who need it most. In reality it is a tool by which the West controls the poorest nations and pressures the wealthier nations of the global South. This is perhaps one of the clearest examples of how Aid is a malicious form of imperialism.

and enforced by the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organisation.

### **A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF OUR 'CONTRACT' DEBT**

In response to OPEC and the G77, the West created the G7 to attack and undermine its enemies. Kissinger designed the plan: Move power in the UN away from the General Assembly to the Security Council which the US and its allies dominated. So institutions that were meant to be arbiters for international grievances became arms of US and

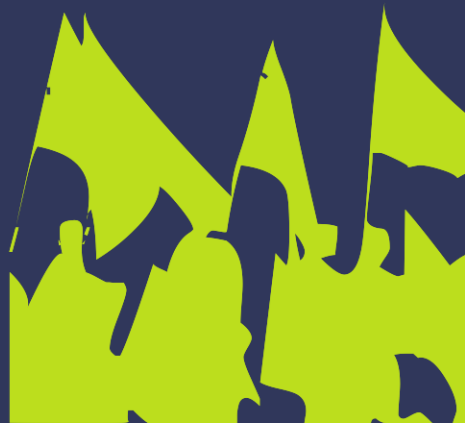
The imparity of power within the system of international trade was a built in feature from the start. When the World Trade organisation (WTO) was created in 1995 it is no surprise that it conferred greater powers to the West as they are the ones who set its rules. Firstly, bargaining power is weighted by market share so rich nations almost always win in any disputes. Secondly, the WTO denies subsidies to the global South but permits them to the US and the West so the South cannot compete with

the Western companies. Technically the South could sue and could win and, under WTO rules, punishment is decided by the plaintiff. However, their only recourse is sanctions, but sanctions by the Congo against the US, for example, are basically meaningless, leaving them with effectively no recourse. Thirdly, WTO enforces expensive patents that favour Western companies on medicines like HIV treatment, when other nations could produce the same treatments more cheaply. Approximately 18 million people die every year from preventable disease because of WTO regulations.

Perhaps most significantly, in Chapter 11 of WTO rules, companies can sue entire governments if they feel that their profits are being threatened. For example, Metalclad, a US firm, was polluting drinking water in Mexico which resulted in deaths. The Mexican government shutdown Metalclad's plant. Metalclad then sued the Mexican government and won, the latter then had to pay \$15.6 million in damages to the murderers. Another example was El Salvador, where

the government attempted to block the construction of a gold mine by Canadian company Pacific Rim. Pacific Rim sued the government and won damages of \$315 million before any construction had even started! Over 500 of these disputes have been tried. The elites always win, the people always lose.

It is enshrined in international law that corporations manage and regulate foreign governments; sovereign governments on the other hand cannot sue foreign investors and have no rights to damages. The WTO exists to prevent the global South from having any ability to challenge Western hegemony and



keeps them in a state of poverty.

Another form of international oppression is “Third World” debts. The crisis began during the Six Days War. The US backed Israel and in response the oil rich Arab nations raised the price of oil. After a settlement was reached, these nations found themselves with \$450 billion in oil profits which they ended up recycling back through the American banks. The poorer nations of the global South suffered from the hike in prices. The American banks, however, then offered these massive oil profits back to the poorer nations in the form of loans, making the bankers incredibly

rich. When the Iranian revolution happened it pushed up oil prices again; starting the process afresh. The indebted nations became even more indebted, some debts reached as much as 50% of GDP. Out of their infinite beneficence, the US Federal Reserve jacked up the interest rates.

The IMF became an effective bailiff. In exchange for defaulting on their debts, these nations had to accept “Structural Adjustment Programs”; distilled neoliberalism. The countries were forced to privatise all government industry, institute austerity economics, cut all state welfare, and totally deregulate their markets to permit foreign investors to literally take ownership of their industries. In total the IMF privatised 2 trillion dollars of public services ending “Developmentalism” once and for all.

It is no accident that international law prevents the IMF and World Banks from being prosecuted. It is also no accident that compound interest on World Bank and IMF loans make it literally impossible to ever pay off despite



the fact that the principle has been paid off as much as four times over by some countries. The global South has paid over \$13 trillion in debt repayments; a fiction created by some men in offices in New York and London. The annual debt repayments alone are more than the cost of ending global poverty.

If we were being really cynical, we might say that the Aid packages from the West are like a bare minimum life support machine; keeping the South barely alive, but just enough to allow perpetual vampiric leeching. Moreover, that very Aid money will ultimately be syphoned back to the West anyway!

Economic exploitation is structural violence. In fact, going by sheer numbers, the modern form of this system is more deadly than its colonial predecessor. Poverty, starvation and death are not unfortunate side-effects of capitalism; they are capitalism. The ruling elite who maintain and benefit from this system do so on purpose and have a moral and a legal responsibility for their crimes against humanity.

## **CONCLUSION**

We are meant to believe that Aid is well intentioned if only a little ineffective; that the West is graciously trying to alleviate “natural” poverty in the world. This can only be believed if the history of the world is obscured, responsibility for poverty is hidden and the mechanisms by which the West steals and exploits the world are not understood. If these truths are recognised, Aid cannot be viewed as anything other than a sadistic joke; as the ideological facade to what is a 500 year old system of political and economic rape. Aid is imperialism.

Only a handful of men make up the rules of international trade and finance. In the TTIP and TTP trade packages, for instance, only 605 people were involved. 605 unelected CEO's and financiers. The entire world system is governed by, quite literally, like, maybe, 2000 people.

The problems wrought by the global system of exploitation affect us all: in its climate disasters and myriad economic crises but also the threat of hitherto unseen



forms of totalitarianism. There exist “Free Trade Zones”: areas where, by international laws, not even governments are permitted to enter and corporate bodies create the law. Human rights do not exist within these spaces. Could this become the model for how power might look when ecological and economic catastrophes erode the social fabric and traditional forms of power? Entire regions and populations controlled by Coca Cola and similar conglomerates who create the law and enforce it with private armies like Serco and G4S; and we become indentured servants with no ability to resist.

To escape the system of debt, exploitation and slavery, it's essential for the Global South to plot a new course that prioritises care, ecology, and sustainability. This path should embrace indigenous values instead of dismissing them and evaluate progress based on more significant measures than GDP. To pursue Developmentalism is to chart the same course of economic growth that capitalism requires. The radical act is to reject the entire edifice of

capitalism altogether.

This is what we must do here in England. In fact, it is what we must do everywhere. We must build international solidarity and work outside the sphere of state power and international finance; create new and opposed systems of production, distribution and consumption based on real democracy and real freedom. The global reach of capitalism shows both how stark our predicament is but also how much power we have, how much hope there is and how much potential there is for creating a new and better world.

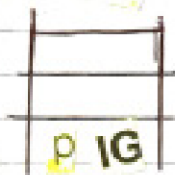
#### **RECOMMENDED READING**

Hickel, Jason. *The Divide: A Brief Guide to Global Inequality and its Solutions*. (2021) Left Book Club.





COP



BURN



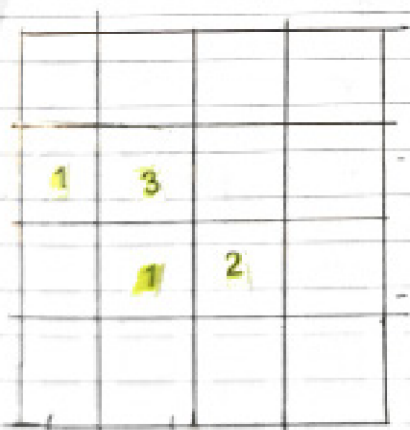
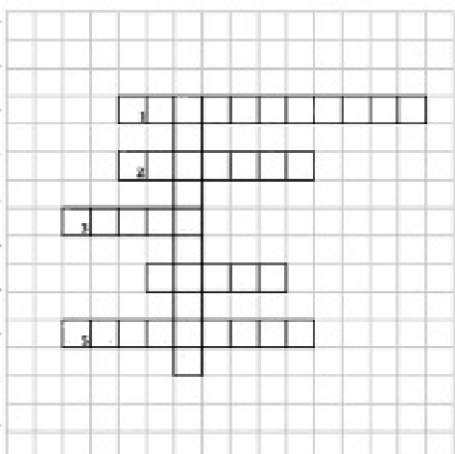
1. Word Ladder

Change one letter at a time, attempting to move from the starting word to the end word.

2. Crossword

1. Free \_\_\_\_, cornerstone of anarchism
2. Location of the Free Forest Defenders
3. Kropotkin's conquest
4. \_\_ by \_\_, Hajar Press 2021
5. Author of At The Café

Guess the vertical



3. ACABUKU

Each row and column needs to be filled out with the numbers 1-4, without repeating any numbers within the row or column.

4 2 3 1 3  
3 1 2 4  
1 3 4 2  
2 4 1 3

2. ANARCHY  
Solidarity  
Mutualism  
Bread  
Bread  
Adams  
Anarchism

1. DOWN  
PIG  
TOWN  
CIG  
TORN  
COG  
TURN  
COG  
BURN  
COP

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